

COUNTRY
TOPIC Koethen Airfield

25X1A

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EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

15 June 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. On 23 May 1951, [redacted] Koethen airfield [redacted] that the field was occupied by 84 swept-wing jet fighters most of which were parked in hangars. Some of the planes were allegedly disassembled to take up the least possible parking space. [redacted] only about 20 to 22 jet fighters, which had previously been at Zertst, practiced flying during the preceding weeks. The quarters at the field were allegedly occupied by about 2,000 men including the personnel of a tank unit. *
2. Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 25 May, the field was observed [redacted]. The weather was good. Hangar No 1 was open and occupied by jet fighters and single-engine aircraft. Eight jet fighters were seen in the first row. Six jet fighters [redacted] they were parked in front of the hangar. In front of hangar No 2 which was also open and occupied, two single-engine planes were seen. About four jet fighters were observed inside. Five jet fighters were seen in front of the flight control building. Ten jet fighters [redacted] were parked in front of hangar No 3 which was also open. At least four jet fighters were seen inside the hangar. Seven jet fighters were parked on the taxiway leading to the western end of the runway. There was no flying during the period of observation. **
3. The radio installation with four masts in the western extension of the runway was dismantled except for the wooden hut. The tent which was part of the radio installation located about 800 meters east of Koethen-Baasdorf road was dug into the ground. A generator was seen close to the tent. A wooden hut, large enough for a truck, was beside another tent about 500 meters west of [redacted] ***

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4. The spotlights along the runway were about 50 meters apart. Each spotlight consisted of a box-like frame from which a short rod protruded. On top of the rod there was a yellow bowl with the bulb inside. The eastern extension of the runway was marked by seven red lamps fitted on poles about 2 meters high.

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Comment. The observations [] confirm that two fighter regiments are stationed in Koethen. Therefore, it is believed possible that 84 jet aircraft are parked there. If the information is correct it would indicate that the two fighter regiments have been completely re-equipped with jet planes, each fighter regiment with about 40 aircraft. The two fighter regiments were transferred from Zerbst to Koethen in early April 1951.

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Comment. [] counted a total of 44 jet planes.

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For location of hangars and flight control building, see Annex.

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Comment. The radio installation with the four masts is an Adcock DF station. According to previous reports it is situated about 600 meters west of the beginning of the runway. The two tents belong to the landing beacons.

1 Annex: 1 - sketch on ditto.

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